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It our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Shekels of the Papuans.

It is with unfeigned edification that we learn that Mr. TAFT, in his capacity as Secretary of War and grand tutelary of the Malay and Papuan races, has officially designated a private banking house of this city as one of the depositories of the Philippine Islands funds.

Surprise will certainly be generated concerning various aspects of this masterpiece of political strategy, and we venture to augur from it many novel and startling features of the campaign. In fact, we find it provocative of serious intellectual speculation.

To begin with, in respect of its purely local quality of surprise, the house Mr. TAFT has designated is the highly respectable one of SPEYER & Co. If Mr. TAFT in his tactical sagacity was determined to elect a Semitic establishment how came he to select Mr. SPEYER'S in preference to the far more celebrated and more orthodox institution of KUHN, LOEB & Co., presided over by that financier of worldwide fame Mr. JACOB H. SCHIFF? The wonder this will excite will not vanish for weeks. Then there will not lack many who will ask in perplexity why the great house of WILLIAM SALOMON & Co. was slighted. to say nothing of the historic firm of the SELIGMANS, so well reputed of their dealings with General GRANT when he was President. It is really a que tion of profound and legitimate interest, and we should not be in the least surprised if the emotions aroused in New York communicated themselves even to Congress.

The Secretary of the Treasury may be asked to explain how he finds it feasible to withdraw money from the national banks and recognized trust companies and deposit it with a private banker. Then too he may be asked what class of securities he requires of Mr. SPEYER in return, because it would be absurd to suppose that he could discriminate between Mr. SPEYER and, let us say, the City Bank, in the former's favor. The security: he can't help it; though we that as far as we are concerned we should be pleased to deposit as much as \$10,000,000 with Mr. SPEYER without even an infinitesimal scrap of security. Indeed we should. Besides, we know Mr. SPEYER is plentifully supplied with choice collateral, and we could name offhand, without looking at the appropriate page of this paper, quite a list of things which he has available.

But all of this concerns Congress, especially the Senate, and is quite apart from the inner and more intimate political significance of Mr. TAFT's choice at this particular time of this particular and Semitic private banking house. It is almost Talmudic in its inscrutability. There must be depths, if not heretofore unsuspected charms, about Mr. JAMES SPEYER. As a campaign factor we are unable to identify him and have even refractory if not indeed slow and reluctant. But, lest we be inferred as or contiguity to Mr. SPEYER, we must admit that he is known to be a liberal contributor to the cause of literature, in common with the Hon. JONATHAN BOURNE, Jr., of Oregon and the Hon. the Assistant Secretary of State.

But the wonder of it! Russia and Japan.

According to a despatch from St. Petersburg which we published on March 12, Mr. Izvolsky, the Czar's Minister for Foreign Affairs, made in the Duma on the preceding day a reassuring speech with regard to the actual and prospective relations of the Japanese and Ruspian Governments.

It is true, as Mr. Izvolsky said, that the sacrifices imposed upon Russia by the Peace of Portsmouth were not of the kind that plant in a nation a craving for revenge, like the huge pecuniary indemnity and grievous territorial dismemberment to which France was subjected by the Peace of Frankfort. Probably, indeed, it would have been useless for the Japanese negotiators at Portsmouth to exact from the Russian plenipotentiaries a billion of dollars or even half as much, for financially straitened as she was and is Russia would have found it very difficult if not impossible to procure such a sum. Japan might, however, have insisted upon pushing back the southern border of Siberia and upon annexing the littoral province of which the capital is Vladivostok. Had either of those demands been pressed, no peace would have been made at Portsmouth; or else, if Russia had deemed it needful to yield for the moment, there would have been planted in her a rankling sense of humiliation which nothing could have allayed but

a second and successful war. As a matter of fact Japan withdrew

lease of the Liaotung peninsula, with sphere of influence in southern Manchuria. It follows that no territory which historically had belonged to Russia was surrendered, because Japan had long claimed the whole of Sakhalin by right of discovery and settlement, while Russia had held the Liaotung peninsula under a lease from China less than the northern and north central sections, conventions concluded last year with Japan, conventions which, supplemented as they are by Russia's agreement with must be looked upon as affording strong guarantees for at least the temporary maintenance of peace in the Far East.

So far Mr. Izvolsky was unquestionably justified in expressing optimistic We doubtless may take for views. granted that up to 1915, when the Anglo-Japanese alliance will, unless extended, expire by limitation, there will be no rupture of the present amicable relations between Russia and Japan, except in the highly improbable event of the last named Power engaging in a war with the United States, when Russian sentiment in favor of a demonstration in our interest might prove irresistible. After 1915 there may be an entirely new grouping of Powers in the Far East, and then the Russian people may appreciate the force of the warning uttered in the Duma by Mr. MILIUKOFF, the leader of the Constitutional Democrats. that adjoining spheres of influence Russia in Manchuria are apt, soon or late, to prove sources of grave friction.

Will the Panama Canal Pay?

It will. We are as far from agreement with Mr. JOHN F. STEVENS'S gloomy prophecy of the certain financial failure of the Panama Canal as we are from agreement with Mr. JOHN BARRETT'S radiant prediction of its financial success. In an address before the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Banking Mr. BARRETT replied to Mr. STEVENS's statement by saving:

" I have no hesitation, from personal knowledge of this section, in predicting that the whole cost of the canal will be paid in ten years after its com pletion by the growth in trade of the west coast of South America with the United States."

The value of the Panama Canal is

not determinable by debit entries of cost of construction, maintenance and operation and credit entries of toll charges. It is not primarily a money making enterprise the worth of which can be shown by a statement of receipts and expenditures. Few have given any serious consideration to that phase of the undertaking. The returns are in any case uncertain and profit or loss rom operation will depend somewhat upon cost of construction and maintenance, both of which are as yet undetermined items. The possible traffic which will pass through it and the new business which will be created by it Secretary of the Treasury has to exact are equally matters of guesswork. Its sibility that it may no itself within a few years and the fact that it might not for some time after its completion show a profit on its operaits construction. The American people want the canal for various reasons, and the American people are going to have is not and will not be affected by any question of direct profits.

Weighing the canal in commercial lies between the gloomy view of Mr. STEVENS and the exuberant prediction of Mr. BARRETT, who says that the foreign commerce of the west coast of South a year and that "by the time the heard it averred that his cough was canal is completed this will have grown

to \$500,000,000, and after the canal is open it will rapidly increase to a billion imputing or desiring to impute nearness | dollars." The present business is here overstated, and the prediction of its development at such a pace is quite without justification.

The trade of Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Bolivia shows an encouraging increase people that the receipts of the canal will , secure such trade combinations are. not be limited to the traffic of that area. Our present trade with those countries is about \$50,000.000 a year, represented by \$22,000,000 of exports and \$28,000,000 of imports. Allowing a large increase in these figures it is evident that the profits on the business will not quite pay the cost of canal construction in ten years, and the payment must be calculated on a basis of profits and not on gross sales and purchases.

The predictions of both of these gentlemen may be dismissed as valueless. The American people are content to go on with the enterprise and are satisfied with the prospect of its advantages to the country and to the world. Its commercial benefits to us are impossible of any present estimate, and its social, political and strategic possibilities are inestimable. The Panama Canal will pay.

The Real Question in the Navy.

question touching the navy, that of organization. The inquiry before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs began with a packed jury-the committee-who didn't want to hear anything, with "lookouts" to keep them from hearing too much and with a general disposition to pooh-pooh, to minimize whatever couldn't be silenced, and to distort or TAFT is another Hughes in New York, complicate the rest! As it happened, however, the Senators were at the bottom anxious to know the facts, and so it has come about that as the volume of pussycat. He is as conservative as a her claim for an indemnity and con- testimony swelled, as Winslow and KEY slate gravestone. He is as calm as a

tented herself with a cession of the followed SIMS and HILL, another senti- digest. He is himself and nobody else. southern half of Sakhalin and of the ment prevailed. "Admiral" CAPPS abandoned his capacity as a cross-questioner. a recognition of her protectorate over Mr. HALE and Mr. TILLMAN no longer Corea and of her possession of a defined refused to listen. It began to appear Mr. ROOSEVELT. that there was something in the ideas of these "young men" of 50 or thereabouts -seagoing officers, tacticians, men of at least a quarter of a century's experience on the water.

Now that the subordinate matters, such as armor belts, turrets and ammunition lifts, are set at rest, we approach ten years. It is also a fact that Russia's | the actual, underlying issue-the organiposition in Manchuria remains very zation of the navy. Everybody knows strong, for more than half of that coun- by this time that the existing system is try, including the railways traversing absurd and futile. Consider for a moment the fact-for it is a fact-that no is recognized as lying within Russia's one, absolutely no one, is responsible for sphere of influence. Under the circum- the military efficiency of any of our stances no sentimental considerations ships. We build, launch and operate hald back Russia from entering into the these vessels, doing the best we can under the circumstances; but if anything goes wrong with them who is responsible, who can be held to account? Japan's British ally and by Japan's Is there any one? THE SUN has harped agreement with Russia's friend France, upon these deficiencies for years. No one has answered, and for the very good reason that there is nothing to say. When the dreadful tragedy occurred on the Missouri some years ago did any one blame Chief Constructor CAPPS or his predecessor? The fault was partly one of construction, yet nobody arraigned him or any one else, and that was just and right. The truth is that our ships are built without authority or responsibility. And this is the truth that has at last been hammered into the patriotic but unsuspecting Senate Committee on Naval Affairs.

Whether we may now look for another and a better dispensation is a different matter, though we hope for the best. It has long been obvious to the fighting corps of the navy that the military efficiency of our warships is not sufficiently if at all considered. The reason for this, perhaps, is that there is no one to consider it. The Secretary of the such as are possessed by Japan and Navy-and we have had four or five Secretaries within the last six years-can hardly be expected to do it, nor could he do it intelligently even if some one did expect it. He is a civilian, and he goes into the midst of the whirlwind with no knowledge or preconceived opinions. Even if he remained five or ten years it would be the same. He would still be dependent upon the advice of some one Board of "Ratification"?

What the navy officers want is an adjustment, or rather a readjustment. They want an advisory board of construction with authority and responsibility, composed of naval tacticians, or a chief who shall be charged with the creation of a board and be held accountable to the Secretary of the Navy. The bureau chiefs are overloaded with their own work, and they are, besides, not responsible. The service needs a court of last resort in respect of our ships-composed of one or more officers with nothing else to do-and a superior who shall discipline and coordinate the various bureaus.

This is the real question before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs.

One Aspect of Cheaper Diamonds.

The constantly recurring rumors of a oming decrease in the market pice of diamonds, ue to the expiration of the contract between the De Beers and the Premier mining companies, is of importance to many individuals who might commercial uncertainties are no secret. be thought to have but slight interest include the comparatively large number of men and women to whom in the past the purchase of diamonds has seemed the safest tion have not dampened the ardor for and most convenient means of saving money.

Because of their small size, the ease with which they might be sold and the the canal. Their purpose has not been, fact that on them lenders were always willing to advance money, diamonds have been a safe and useful investment for persons of small means. Assuming that scales, there is no question that it will diamonds would not decrease in price, be both an economy in present business such purchasers have bought stones as and a maker of new business. The truth expensive as they could, exchanging these for larger and better ones as they felt able. These buyers soon became proficent in judging diamonds, with the result that the quality of their purchases America already amounts to \$300,000,000 | became better with each change. Much of this buying in this country has been done in the last few years, and any decrease in the market price of diamonds would affect seriously those who have preferred this use of their money to life

insurance or savings banks. For several years it has se med as if the diamond market was so completely in control of the De Beers syndicate that no reaction in prices was possible. In and will doubtless be stimulated by the this was as near a perfect monopoly as completion of the canal, but it is fortu- could be devised. The present disornate for the pockets of the American ganization of the trade shows how in-

Ex Uno Plures.

The Hon. SAM POWERS, Mr. ROOSE-VELT's agent on the Massachusetts circuit, is said in his State to be smarter 'n chain lightnin'. Mr. Powers can carry water on both shoulders, catch a weasel asleep, get somebody to pull his chestnuts out of the fire, teach a granny how to suck eggs; and such another butterer of parsnips with fine words is not to be found in Massachusetts.

The other day during the visit of Governor Huches to Boston Mr. Powers had the difficult task of making things agreeable for his candidate and hosts at the gathering of Brown University graduates, Hughes men all. Mr. Powers triumphed easily:

"Your distinguished son and also the distinguished son of Yale, both of New England blood and educated in New England colleges, stand for the same policies of government administration. We are now getting down to the real It the American people select either this republic will be safe."

Poor Vorys can't do this trick of multiplying and confusing personality nearly as well. It needs careful conjuring, in fact. TAFT is an emanation of ROOSE-VELT, and yet TAFT is "safe." The brutal "TAFT or Daft," "Me or TAFT" won't do in New England or New York. No. another Knox in Pennsylvania, another Cannon in Illinois, another Fairbanks in Indiana. He will walk as warlly as a

Especially-this in the most secluded confidence, of course-he is entirely different in temperament and method from

Thus the accommodating Taft touters are ready to identify their candidate with any other. He is what you pleas so long as you are willing to vote for him in the convention. And yet only those persons who are dazzled momentarily by the tricks of Conjurer Powers and | pitiated to the last hole in its cinch. his fellow performers can forget that Mr. Roosevert is the cause, the inspiration, the blood, brains and life of the Taft boom. As a candidate Mr. TAFT is the absolute automaton of Mr. ROOSEVELT. The more must be praised the ingenuity of the Taft touters who seek to give an independent entity to their favorite.

From the ever fertile field of athletics omes again something new in morals. At the recent games of the New York Athletic Club in the Garden representatives of two colleges ran a dead heat in the "half." As reported in a news despatch, the two runners fouled each other in the run off. but "as both runners had been at fault" the race was credited to the first man over the line. "Double Foul, No Foul At All; or. When Two Wrongs Make a Right"; material for the moralist-or the "College Widow" school.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Home Training of Men. Women and Children Advocated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the opinion of one who has made a life study of fire work it is more than criminal to make a stand against outside fire escapes for school The best we have are insufficient for, make them ever so ample, and drill the children ever so perfectly, we still have the ever present danger of panic, because children and their parents are lacking in individual fire knowledge.

The fire escape most needed is a fire and moke proof veranda extending around the entire outside walls. This should be built even with the windows and doors of each story, and have ample means of descent The schoolhouse of the future will be of the receding wall type, the front wall of floor being set back from the front line of the one below it, leaving a clear promenade about the building, and having ample escape stairs for each promenade. noney, but are not the children worth it?

There is great need of an organization to ake up the matter of house fire education. The instructors should be experienced fire nen of the modern school. Ex-Fire Commissioner Lantry made a plea for fire lessons in our public schools. Quick and good re--but whom? The bureau chiefs or the sults could be obtained through the public chool fire lectures. Up to a few years ago and for several previous years there was a lecture of this character in the course, which was doing a good work in fire education Such lectures and many of them should be given throughout the entire city, and, in fact, throughout the whole country. Such a movement would make the home the fire fighting unit, intelligently equipped to act is an auxiliary to our firemen by sending

as an auxiliary to our firemen by sending prompt fire alarms and holding fires in check until the arrival of the firemen.

Such systems are now being worked out in some communities, with very gratifying results, under the supervision of the local fire officials. The saving of property is being worked out by firemen, insurance men, fire apparatus builders and students of fire matters. The saving of life from fire comes home to us all, and we should meet the issue by training our minds for it.

There were 443 lives lost in this city in 1907 from burns, scalds and fires. These figures are normal, as we had no great life destroying fires in that period. There is also a larger life loss from causes which could be reduced if people were trained in life safeguarding.

NÉW YORK, March 12.

NEW YORK, March 12.

The Municipal Automobile TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. Every citizen and taxpayer should read the artic published in your Sunday edition of March s wherein was shown the cost of the eightyone automobiles bought for Greater New York. It is hoped that your good efforts in the direction of showing the extravagant use of public property for private purposes will

As a citizen and taxpayer I beg to enter my protest against the present vogue. It is a question of time only when an accident to persons or property, or both, will be the result of the operation of the eighty-one automobiles and a question whether the city is not liable for damages done in permitting the speed limits to be exceeded by its em-

If sundry officials are to be provided with automobiles (which, however, are wholly unnecessary for the conduct of the city's business) the machines used by them should be painted n a distinguishing color and carry a number in addition to the letters of the department to which they belong. This would make it possible to detect the lawbreakers who are putting public property to private uses. and what in the vernacular is known as oy riding will be minimized, and when indulged in at the expense of the taxpayers the offenders can be located.

The writer is much on the streets of New York and notes with some resentment the drivers of automobiles constantly violating laws which citizens are forced to respect or be fined for violating; laws which all good citizens should be and are glad to observe. Further, it is a fact that automobiles are

sold on a twenty per cent. selling commission. A research would show what becomes of these commissions when the city is a pur-chaser. Some officials are quite active in muck raking corporations and private business interests. It is time for some muck raking to be done on the other side, i. e., by the citizens, against the municipal automobile offenders. In conclusion, no one knows as well as

does the Police Commissioner that his letter of September 23, 1907, is honored in the breach and that the illegal and wholly uncailed for mileage, to say nothing of speeding, is not on the decrease. NEW YORK, March 12.

Virginian Pronunciation.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is a safe bet that no one whose mother tongue is Eng-lish pronounces that apparently never to be settled language in a "more unique" manner than the full blooded Virginian.

For a few instances: There are two letters in the aiphabet that your true Virginian has suppressed entirely. These lesters are "g" when a final, and whenever it ventures to show itself.

Again, "dog," "hog," &c., are "dawg," "hawg," c. A final "o" is sounded as "a" in father, e. g., Obio" becomes "Ohia." Such words as "air." dc. A line "Oblo" becomes "Ohla." Such words as "..." "Oblo" becomes "Ohla." Such words of the first sylthere," dc., are given the sound of the first sylthere," dc., are given the sound of the first sylthere, "dc., are given the sound of the first sylthere," dc., are given the sound of the first sylthere, "doubt in "assisting to the sound of the first sylthere." "Girl" washington is thing but not quite like "gyuri." Washington is as though the "Wa" had been snatched dripping from water. "On" is siways "awn," and "off" is always "awf." Such is the oral speech of this paradise of hospitality. ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 11.

A Revolutionary Suggestion. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: When Ashbel P. Fitch was Comptroller he formulated this motto

for the Pinance Department: "Pay as you go. If you can't pay don't go." Since his administration this wise motto has been neglected, and it would seem advisable for the present incumbent of the office to resurrect it, dust it off and hang it conspicuously in his office, where

ae can see it daily and follow its good advice. Eise where are we going to get off? TAXPAYER. NEW YORK, March 12. The Front of the Back.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Where is the front of one's back? Is it that surface which one scratches or is it on the side which one cannot see? Would it be correct to say that the back of one's back is in back of the back of one's front, or that the back of one's front is in front of the front of JERSEY CITY, March 11.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1002.

WASHINGTON, March 12.-The American public does not half understand the obligation it is under in all these great matters of State. The American public will understand, though, before I get through. It is of vital necessity in this campaign, in fact there is nothing whatever that equally concerns the whole American people at this time, that organized 'abor should be pro-

It is, after all, really true that the railoads are on their uppers. I have hit them even harder than I myself supposed. They cannot maintain their wage scales unless they get help. They have got to get help, and the only way in which it can be had is for the public to recognize its duty in this intense national emergency.

The present is my steadily recurring eason of poignant sympathy with labor. I recognize no labor but organized labor. am a union man myself. When I joined the Amalgamated Order of Locomotive Firemen it was not for purposes of hygiene. Is it to be supposed for one moment that a reduction of the wage scale can be tolerated at a critical time like this when November is approaching with giant strides and Taft is growing restive? No wonder. Labor is against Taft on the score of those fortuitous injunctions of his. But me! Well, I should smile!

Gompers and Morrison say that every member of a labor union in America read my letter to the Interstate Commerce Commission forbidding any reduction in the railroad scale of wages and understood it. Knapp didn't. He was disconcerted at what he called my violence. But was a wage cut down? Well, I guess not! No railroad in America dare reduce a wage scale without my sanction! No railroad in America dare raise a freight or passenger rate without my permission!! Ask Mellen. Ask Milton Smith. Ask Jim Hill. Ask Harriman (I'd like to catch him at it). Ask any of them!

Now the wage scale is the most sacred thing in America, and will be until some time in November. There are certain seasons when I feel this intensely, and the present is one of them. I have therefore allowed the railroads to become aware that I am minded to tolerate a 10 per cent. advance in rates at this juncture, so that there may be no difficulty about the wage scale, and that the public may have an occasion to see clearly what its obligations are in weighty matters of State. The public is learning, no doubt; and with docility. Its great effective lesson was in the anthracite coal strike, when it contributed nearly an additional dollar a ton to the price of coal, thereby making me solid with John Mitchell and union labor in the mining world. A 10 per cent. advance now in railroad freights will enable the general public to get into closer touch with me and my policies and afford them a more palpable interest in my campaign than they at present enjoy.

Permission, therefore, is hereby graciously extended to the railroads to advance all freight charges 10 per cent. (until November, anyhow). Any function or duty of the Interstate Commerce Commission conflicting with this decision is hereby suspended.

All Republican organs are hereby warned not to dwell too strenuously u on Taft's record on the bench respecting injunctions in labor cases. The subject is awkward and may be overdone. Taft is indispensable as a vehicle to get the convention rted right.

The approaching great coal strike in Indiana is hereby referred to Fairbanks, with power.

What the Country Needs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Roosevelt, Bryan, Tatt, Hughes and Johnson all have the "bug," a hemely expression, no doubt. They are all infected with the "bug" of doing something. They are all daft on the subject of more legislative enactments. The country needs a "reactionary," a "do nothing" man, who will allow us time to

look around and find where we are at. At the present time I see but two men of prominence qualified for the job and having the confidence of the people, Speaker Cannon and George Gray of Delaware. Men past middle life, their gray hairs and sound judgments are what we need. MERCHANT. NEW YORK, March 12.

Mohammedan Converts to Christianity. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As a

student of Mohammedanism I, with many others, was surprised at the account of Mohammedanism given in THE SUN of March 9. According to report Dr. Talcott Williams of Philadelphia stated that "to his knowledge only five or six Mohammedans had become Christians, but that far more Christians had become Mohammedans." The learned speaker may have been misquoted, and I do not care to enter into his treatment of Mohammedanism as a system, but his knowledge of the results of missions to Mohammedans must be very limited. The fact is that there were converts from Islam to Christianity even before the death of Mohammed and have been ever since in all countries where the Gospel has been preached to hioslems. In North India there are over two hundred Christian preachers and pastors who once were followers of Islam; in north Africa at one station thirty Mos'ems beliems, 1,150 catechumens and eighty organized churches, while in Java there are to-day is,000 living converts from Islam, and between 300 and 400 aduits are baptized every year. only five or six Mohammedans had become

The work of reaching Mos'ems with the message of Christianity and Christian civilization is sufficiently difficult without the cry of defeat being raised by those who are at home while those at the front are winning the battle inch by inch.

S. M. Zwemes.

Naw Yorg, March 11.

Need of Crosstown Subways.

TO THE ETITOR OF THE SUY-SIT: The need of subways running from river to river is far and away ahead of the need of a new tunnel running up into The Bronz to please the real estate specu lators. The people on the west side of the town have absolutely no facilities whatever for getting either uptown or downtown. The Ninth avenu car which runs down Washington street and up Greenwich street is a joke. The elevated road gives fairly good service during commission hour and in between runs sometimes, but if we take the elevated say to Forty-second street and then get off we find a string of loaded coal vans on the ca tracks, and after a while comes a car and ! ages twenty minutes to get across to the Grand Central Station.

There should be a subway through Grand street one through Fourteenth street as least from the North River connecting with the present subway others in Twenty-third street, Thirty-fourth street and Forty-second street from river to river. All of these streets have ferries on the East Side o railroad connections on the West Side. These subways would cost very little money and would bench hundreds of thousands of people. The surface lines on these streets are so crowded and congested that an able bodied person can walk across in less than the average time of the cars. NEW YORK, March 12.

The Was of It. Knicker-Roosevelt may go to the convention

Bocker-Yes, he will take little son Taft to the freus, although of course he doesn't want to go

FEDERAL TAXESON STOCK SALES.

Is the Hepburn Bill Constitutional? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If the pending Hepburn bill should become a Federal statute the power of Congress to levy taxes on transfers of stock, under its provisions, would still be untenable. It will be recalled that the first article of the Constitution provides that representation and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to population. The Hepburn bill does not provide for any apportionment of the proposed transfer tax among the States, whether according to the census of each State, or in any other way. Indeed the conception of the bill seems to be that New York, where most of the stock transfers take place, would pay the practical totality of the tax. In the absence of an apportionment provision the constitutionality of the measure must be tested by its nature as a tax-whether or

not it is a direct tax. At the time of the Spanish war taxes were levied on certain transfers of stock and other property. That legislation was sustained by the Supreme Court and that decision may have misled to the pending proposition for enactment. But the former statute concerning taxes on transfers differe materially in its provisions from the measure now before the House. And the grounds on which the old law was sustained are entirely inapplicable to the pending measure. Indeed it will appear that the court antagonized just such a tax scheme as this Hepburn bill proposes.

In determining whether a tax is direct the Supreme Court has announced that it will not solve the question according to the rules of political economy. But it will ascertain whether a tax is direct or indirect, as tested by its traditional character, according to its history and appellation in this country and England. Under this ruling we cannot resort to the familiar theory that a tax is indirect if its incidence can b shifted by the payers to other parties.

Without following the classification of taxes under the judicial doctrine, it is sufficient for present purposes that the court has declared this principle: that a tax upon property, personal as well as real, is a direct tax. It has also become familiar knowledge that a tax upon the income from both species of property is likewise direct.

When we come to consider sales of person alty, the same logic prevails. Referring to a different species of tax from the one we are now considering, the court said:

If this tax is not on the property, or on the sale eof, then these cases do not apply-it is not

Again the court says: A tax upon every sale made is really and prac

ally a tax upon property. The above expressions seem clear enough but as taxes on inheritances have been held to be indirect, a few words may be added to show the distinction between stock transfers and successions as subjects of taxa tion. The right of an owner of property to alienate it is a necessary incident of his estate. It has been so with reference to realty since the feudal times. And of all personalty, stocks are from their nature specially alienable. This inherent right differentiates transfers of property between living persons from devises and inheritances. The latter incidents of transfer are operated under an artificial and statutory system. Hence the process provided by that system is taxable-such succession taxes are not directed upon the property, but for the use of the facilities of wills and administration provided by the State. That class of fiscal burdens not being taxes upon the property itself, and not being direct in their incidence, are not amenable to the constitutional requirement of apportionment.

But the right to buy or sell property being an incident of the right of property itself. the Supreme Court has ranged taxes on such sales in the same category as taxes upon property itself-among direct taxes. As the Hepburn bill does not comply with the constitutional requirement for the distribution of that class of taxes according to population in each of the States, it could

not become an effective piece of legislation. EDWARD L. ANDREWS. NEW YORK, March 12.

PARLIAMENTARY BULLS.

Some That Have Been Corralled the Present Session. From the Westminster Gazette

The present session of Parliament already gives promise of a fine "crop of bulls," the finest sample

o far being that of Lord Balfour of Burleigh glad to hear it." But if one n ay judge from past performances there are many members of the Commons who may at any time be expected to 'go one better" than "the noble lord. Captain Craig who said. "The naked sword is drawn for the fight; and never again will the black smoke of the Nationalists' tar barrels drift on the Home tule wind to darken the hearts of Englishmen "The law relating to labor combinations," said nother member, "must be watertight, made that no judge can drive his coach and four through

"Whenever the Prime Minister mentions Home Rule he puts his foot into it up to the knee" was the startling statement credited to a Unionist mem per: against which we may place Mr. Swift Mac-Neill's "I will now put to the Attorney-General another question, which distinctly arises, M Speaker, out of the answer the right honorable gentleman has not given."

New Danger for Nurses.

From the Prudential Weekly Re-ord. Superintendent Frisbee of the Prudential Life Insurance Company related an incident greatly stirred those present, embodying as it does a striking exemplification of loyalty. Six weeks ago Agent E. E. Searing of the Newark staff in pursuit of his daily work, was struck by a trolley car and seriously injured. One of his legs wa broken in two places and his head was severely lacerated.

Sick and all as he was-unable to stand, indeedhe actually got on the job and secured from the trained nurse attending him an application for 1 000 twenty year endowment policy, he annual premium of \$41.97. As can readily be imagined, the recitation of these facts aroused the meeting to great enthusiasm and applause for the

No Red Flag in America. America, to all the world Thou stretchest forth a friendly hand: Beneath thy glorious flag unfuried No bars to human progress stand. The honest mind In thee can find No chains to hamper or to bind Thou dearest hope of all mankind. Thou first and freest land!

Then what of those who now would flour Thy flag that millions died to save Since first upon the breeze flung out It stirred the spirits of the brave? What men are those, Would change the flag the fathers chose

And in the place where it arose A blood red flag would wave? No lovers of their kind are they Who'd wreck the work the fathers wrought, Blind leaders of the blind are the Who'd render vain the fight they fought,

Not love but hate Inspires the prate That bodes such evil to the State, But, by the God that rules our fate, Their plans shall come to naught

Before no flaming flag of red Thy spirit, O Columbia, cow to symbol of disorder dread Shall palsy thy benignant powers From sea to sea. Shall float the banner of the free

The flag of law and liberty,

That starry flag of ours! DENIS A. MCCASTRY,

DEMOCRATS TAKING HEART. Light Visible in the West-The Candidacy of Johnson of Minnesota. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The ment of Governor Johnson as a Democratic candidate for the Presidency by the

State central committee of Minnesota may turn out to be the first gun of a vigorous campaign against the nomination of Mr. Bryan. Hitherto who are opposed to the idea of committing the standard of the party to a man who has been twice rejected by the nation has been as discouraging as it is unaccountable It is a well known fact that nearly all of

the men who have been regarded as the leaders of the Democratic party are opposed to Mr. Bryan and regard his renomination as the greatest misfortune that could come to the party or in the event of his election to the nation. But while in private cor versation these leaders do not hesitate to express their views as to the impropriety of his nomination, few of them have had the courage to avow their sentiments publicly because of the effect that such an avows might have upon their own political fortunes Meanwhile Mr. Bryan has been peregrinating over the country, gathering into his fold no only the original Bryan men but also that large and despicable class of unprincipled citizens who care nothing for the merits of the case but only aim to be on the winning Mr. Bryan has had it all his own way and it seemed that the nomination was to go to him by default of any substantial oppo-

Now, however, that the silence has been broken and the Democrats of Minnesota have brought into the field a champion who car show as many victories as Bryan can coun defeats, it is to be hoped that the real Democrats of the country will take heart and go to work and secure the defeat of the man who, disguised in Democratic livery, is preaching populistic principles.

The recent interview with Governor John son, reported by one of the staff of the Chicago Examiner, places the Governor in a most favorable light to those who believe in places the Governor in a the fundamental principles of the Democratic party and refuse to go after false gods. believes in the Constitution and considers in a binding contract. "The Constitution, as construe it, is the contract among eighty mill ions of people who constitute this country.'

He believes in expansion, but not by con quest over the far distant isles of the Philip "I cannot avoid regretting that ou pines. national policy, instead of going after dis tant islands, did not move in the direction of extending the boudaries of the United States from the Panama Canal to the Arctic Ocean not by conquest, of course, but by friendship. alliance, concord and amalgamation. Mexico and Canada were States of our Union there would be no necessity of enormous fleets." In these views he represents the policy of Thomas Jefferson, who expressed the hope that our country would expand until it included all of North America. He believes in the rights of the States to regulate their domestic affairs, and he does not believe in centralization. "I do not consider that it is the province of the Federal Government to "I do not consider that it is assume the powers that as a matter of the law of the land appertain to the States.

He believes in the revision of the tariff, and onsiders it "the most important work for the correction of the abuses that are plaguing the country."

He believes in reciprocity with Canada wish to see the day when these barriers to trade between the two countries are lev elled, and reciprocity and fraternal union permit the natural development of both. These are all good Democratic doctrines

and the Democratic party can go into a cam paign in their behalf with a united front, le the Populists go where they will. Governor Johnson in two campaigns has proved his to carry a State that is normally largely Republican. If he can do this as the Democratic candidate for Governor in Min nesota, why can he not be equally successfu as a Democratic candidate for the Presidence in other States? He can carry certain! every Western State that Bryan could, and would probably make a far better showing in the East than Bryan could. cannot poll the strength of the Democratic party, while there is no reason to doubt that Johnson if nominated could do so.

The Democratic party cannot afford to go into the coming campaign with the certaint of another defeat. The American people ave twice refused to accept Mr. Bryan fo their President, and to nominate him a third time would be the height of folly. When he was nominated the first time a million Democrats threw their votes away on Simon Buckner of Kentucky. The second time he ran most of these voted for the Republican candidate, McKinley. The result of his nomination for the third time will be either split in the party and the putting of another Democratic ticket in the field or a repetition pocratio defection to the Republican candidate. The Democratic business men of the country do not trust Mr. Bryan and cannot be induced to vote for him under any circumstances. And a great many other Democrats who voted for him before will now refuse to do so because of his advocacof those two heresies, the initiative and referendum and Government ownership of railroads. No man who believes in a representative government can conscientiously support the champion of the initiative and referendum, and no man who is opposed the centralization of power in the Federa government can support the advocate of

Government ownership of railroads. It is to be hoped that the opponents of My Bryan will now take heart and rally their forces for a determined struggle against his nomination in the coming convention. The rule which requires a two-thirds vote for the nomination of a Democratic President is rise one, intended to insure the nomination of a candidate who is the choice of the great bulk of the party, and not one who represents a mere majority. Where parties are so nearly equal as the Republicans and Democrats normally are in this country, a nomination by a mere majority may result in the election of a candidate who is not the choice of a majority of the whole people, but only of a bare majority of the party by which he is nominated, which may be only a little more than one-fourth of the whole number of

oters. The present condition of the Republican party offers to the Democrats an opportunity they have never had before. If they can get together and nominate a man who will have the support of an undivided party it is more probable that he will be elected, but if they go into the field under the leadership of Mr. Bryan their defeat is inevitable. Mr Bryan and his followers ought to know this. and if he is the unselfish patriot his friends believe him to be he will gracefully accept the situation and give way to a candidate who

can poil the full strength of the organization Let the Democrate of the country put asid all personal predilections and prejudices and choose some prominent Democratic states man who has the confidence of the whole party and they will march to victory. if they refuse to listen to the voice of prudence and the lessons of experience and sttempt to force Mr. Bryan upon an unwilling country they will only repeat for the third time the blunder that has cost them two Presidential elections, and for a third time go

down in disastrous defeat. A DEMOCRAT OF THE OLD SCHOOL WASHINGTON, March 12.

Pecan Groves Profitable. From the Meridan Star. Strung along at a few points north of Jackson

on the Illinois Central a few years ago some enter-prising gentlemen established pecan groves. We remember two years after one grove of about 5,000 trees was set out in a territory previous given over to commercial fertilizer, short stap cotton and poor white people. The natives were exceedingly amused that a man could be so vision ary as to expect to get any returns for money thus invested. There were even more enlightened people who passed by on comfortable trains and smiled at the experiment. To-day that grove a keeping its owner in clover and he can go Europe every summer if he is so inclined.

The New Broom

Plantagenet had just adopted the broom plan

"In token of humility," he explained. Others, however, perceived the politician's plans to sweep the country.